EQUAL JUSTICE?

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Lords, The Commons, and The Bill.

Parliament has been prorogued, and the Representation of the People Bill has received the Royal assent.

The last week of the session has been taken up by a struggle between the Lords and the Commons over Proportional Representation and the Alternative Vote.

On January 30th, the Commons, by a majority of 110, threw out the Proportional Representation Amendment which the Lords had put into the Bill. Next day, by a majority of only eight, they put back into the Bill the Alternative Vote which the Lords had taken out. On February 4th, the Lords decided not to insist on the original amendment, but to put in another more limited one. On February 5th, the Commons rejected the compromise amendment by a majority of ninety-seven. On February 6th, the Lords put in a third amendment, applying P.R. to 100 specimen constituencies to be selected by a body of Commissioners. On the same afternoon the Commons accepted this proposal.

The final debate in the Commons for a short time seemed almost to threaten the Bill itself. The old controversies between the two Houses awoke lively echoes, and Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Balfour, and Mr. Asquith took part in an animated skirmish. An amendment to re-insert a form of the alternative vote was only negatived by the severe application of Government Whips, but in the end the Commons agreed with the Lords by a substantial majority. Thereupon the Speaker immediately took the Bill to the House of Lords, where, amid the pomp of ancient ceremonial, the Bill passed into law. Le Roi le veult.

Maternity Benefit.

On January 30th, the House of Lords passed an amendment to Clause 22 of the National Health Insurance Bill, in which the Government proposed to appropriate from £250,000 to £300,000 subscribed for purposes of health under the National Insurance Act, and employ it as a wedding gift to insured women on their marriage. This clause seems to have passed in the House of Commons, after the Bill had been considered in the Standing Committee, without attracting much attention among members; but various organisations of women protested strongly against it, and Lord Knutsford and Lord Sydenham opposed the clause during the second reading in the House of Lords. They showed that the main motive of the clause was to secure ease of administration, as it was very important for societies to know whether their women members were married or not, and the marriage dowry of £2 would induce them to notify their marriage. But it was not fair, they maintained, to secure ease of administration for societies by converting money originally intended for health purposes into a marriage portion. The amendment brought in by the Government on January 30th met these objections by proposing that an insured woman who marries and ceases to be employed shall receive (1) for one year 5s. a week sickness benefit, limited to six weeks; and (2) maternity benefit of 30s. for the first confinement within two years of marriage. The amendment was agreed to, and the Report stage of the Bill passed, and on January 31st the Bill was read a third time.

A Grave Question Unanswered.

We call the attention of our readers to the very serious evidence published in the current number of *The Shield* as to facts of vital importance to some of our soldiers in France. The evidence shows that in at least one French town, a tolerated house of ill-fame was opened last summer, and that the answer given to the indignant protests of the citizens was that it was necessary for the use of British soldiers in a large British convalescent camp which had recently been established near by. The soldiers were apparently encouraged by British authorities to make use of it. A question was asked about it in Parliament by Commander Wedgwood on December 15th, but no answer has yet been given. *The Shield* gives further evidence as to the attitude of some British military authorities on this question, and the results to the Army. It is a matter which deeply concerns the women of this country, and about which they have a serious responsibility to the mothers in Greater Britain who are far away, and can do even less than they can to protect their sons from the dangers to which they are exposed. We earnestly hope that serious-minded women will give the matter their attention, make enquiries of the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene (19, Tothill Street, London, S.W. 1), and follow it up. There will probably be further questions in Parliament, and sooner or later answers must be given.

Mr. Runciman and Women in the Liberal Party.

With reference to the article by Mr. Arthur Henderson published in our issue of January 25th, Mr. Walter Runciman writes: "Liberal women, and those who join the Liberal Party in the future, will find in it as great and broad opportunities for political activity as in any other organisation, and will share with us our aims and responsibilities. Such inequalities in civil and industrial status as the law recognises or imposes will obviously become more than ever the objects of reform and abolition—tasks to which Liberalism, as I understand it, must devote itself."

Mr. Runciman's views as to the general outlook for Liberals, whether men or women, are set out in an interesting article in *The Contemporary Review* for January, which those interested in the future of the parties will do well to read.

Women Teachers' Salaries.

We regret that the report of the Departmental Committee on Salaries of Elementary Teachers, issued on Monday, has recommended that the scales for men and women shall not be constructed on an equal basis. We think this is an injustice even in the case of the senior teachers, though here it is argued by some that a man in middle life is more likely than a woman to have dependants to support, and therefore should be paid more. But the injustice is far greater in the case of the younger teachers, since a boy of twenty is no more likely than a girl of the same age to be helping in the support of others.

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Politics in Education.

The place of religious teaching in schools has been a question of burning importance all through the history of national education. The relation of the child to the Church, and the Church's right to take possession of the child, have been grounds of the bitterest controversy, and as long as any sect maintains an organised church, its adherents will fight for control of the children. To-day there are signs of a new struggle for the child, not as a potential churchman, but as a future citizen. Until now it has been a tacit principle of English education that children should be brought up without any conscious relation to the State. Probably the absence of any definite training in citizenship is partly the result of disbelief in the value of political activities; but it is also a survival from a bygone age. Children are trained in a general way so that they will be useful, or even ornamental, in the country's industrial and social life; education has not kept pace with the democratisation of our political machinery, and belongs to a period when the government of the country was in the hands of a chosen, if not elected, few. In those days, the future governors of the country were properly trained, by special studies and travel, for the political work which lay before them; but now the future governors of the country are turned out of the schools without the smallest knowledge of the meaning of citizenship.

The events of the last few years have not only awakened a new political consciousness, but have brought home to men and women the need for training in political and social science. The new Education Bill, which raises the school leaving age to fourteen, and establishes compulsory part-time education up to eighteen, makes the whole question of the teaching of citizenship a matter of urgent importance. The six million women who are now enfranchised have a new and definite responsibility for the educational policy of the country, and they cannot accept the view that it is the function of continuation schools for girls to provide (in the phrase of the Minister of Education) "a light handrail from the school to matrimony." It is true that marriage is to be a legal qualification for the vote; but training in domesticity cannot be regarded as a complete preparation for political activity.

For boys, a good deal is already being done in the direction of deliberate training for future responsibilities. The official recognition of cadet corps is having a marked influence on the teaching of boys in elementary and secondary schools. The Director of Education for the County of Leicester, in a Handbook on Military Education, shows how almost all the ordinary school subjects may be brought into relation with one of the activities of citizenship. "The teaching of geography is definitely improved by attention to the military requirements of map-reading and field-sketching. Nor will the teaching of English, Mechanics, Chemistry, Hygiene, History, Mathematics, or Handicraft suffer if occasional reference is made to certain items of practical military value." Training of a different kind has been started within the last year or two at some of the public schools. In one school the teaching of political science, initiated by one of the masters, has made great progress. It was announced that a "Civics class" would be held, which would be open to any boy in the upper forms who liked to attend. The classes were started, and became extremely popular. They consisted of lectures and discussions on the following subjects: Introductory (two lectures), Parliamentary Reform (two lectures), The Position of Women (three lectures), The Future of the Empire (three lectures), Trade Unions (one lecture), Individualism and Co-operation in Industry (four lectures), The Organisation of Peace (three lectures), Conservatism (two lectures), Liberalism (one lecture), Modern Ireland (three lectures), Alsace-Lorraine (one lecture), The Russian Revolution (four lectures).

At the beginning of the present school year, in addition to these voluntary classes, three hours a week for the sixth form were allotted to political science and economics as part of the regular curriculum. The study of such subjects seems to be increasingly popular with the boys; and a magazine which they have started shows that their interest in political questions is by no means only an affair of the classroom.

The inclusion of a civics class in the school curriculum is a great advance on the school debate or the general knowledge paper which occurred sometimes even in girls' schools before the war. The civics class involves definite study, and, if it is to be a success, demands enthusiastic teaching; for in this, as in other subjects, the interest of the child depends largely on the interest of the teacher. An occasional debate, or an examination on political events which has no relation to any previous teaching, cannot arouse much interest or make much impression. At a girls' school where it was the custom to set a paper on public events, most of the girls looked upon it as a most irrelevant and useless proceeding. No lessons or discussions ever took place, and conversation between the girls and the mistresses very seldom touched on such things; but the girls were expected to read the newspapers and to answer various questions at the end of the term. Their answers generally showed a complete lack of interest and understanding. In reply to a question about what the King had done to further the cause of European peace, the answer given was that he had laid the foundation-stone of Liverpool Cathedral; and equally inconsequent, though perhaps less ingenious, answers were common.

The feeling against political teaching will probably die hardest of all in girls' public schools. It rests chiefly with the mistresses in boarding schools and high schools to break down this tradition; they are freer than the teachers in State-aided schools, and any mistress who has the necessary interest and knowledge with regard to social and political questions could do a great deal to start regular instruction of this kind.

It may be thought that the best training for citizenship is not in the classroom at all but in the playing-field or in the company of the Boy Scout or Girl Guide. But citizenship is more than good fellowship; and even the experiments in practical self-government which have been made at the Little Commonwealth are not a complete training for the citizen of a larger State. No doubt a great deal can be done by practical demonstration, and probably experiments in self-government should be combined with the teaching and discussion of political questions. The Little Commonwealth, where the children make their own laws and hold their own judicial courts, is an extraordinarily well-disciplined community: but it is primarily a working and not an educational group, and teaching of any kind is almost outside its scheme. The history of what has been done there shows the value of self-government from the point of view of discipline; but when the children from the Little Commonwealth and the players from the fields come to take their places in the larger organisation of the State they find that the self-government which they have experienced is not the Government provided by the British Constitution.

Each of the various attempts at political and social teaching which have been described throws some light on the general question of possible training for citizenship; but the most urgent question remains unanswered. How can the teaching of citizenship be extended to elementary and secondary schools, and organised in continuation schools, so that it may be a real preparation for political activity in a democratic State, and not merely a light handrail either to matrimony or the Army?

Under the regulations of the Board of Education there is already some scope for teaching of this kind; but in practice before the war it was not carried very far, and there is great need for more thought and discussion on the many problems which are involved. Some of these problems are suggested below, in the hope that readers of The Common Cause, and particularly teachers, will answer them in the light of their experience.

(1) How can political teaching in schools be kept free from the partisan or "sectarian" bias which has been the chief difficulty in religious education?

(2) How would the attitude of parents affect (or be affected by) this sort of teaching?

(3) How, and at what age, is it possible to bring the teaching into close enough relation to the children's lives for them to be interested in it?

(4) Must it be confined in elementary and secondary schools to object-lessons in local government and the institutions which the children know, or is it possible to include general political and economic subjects, both national and international?

(5) How much practical demonstration is possible?

On the answers to these questions, and on the energy with which the citizens of to-day put the answers into practice, a great deal depends for the citizens of to-morrow.

Elinor Burns.

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The Primrose Path.

The Play Way: An Essay in Educational Method. By Caldwell Cook, M.A. (Heinemann. 8s. 6d. net.)

The Eurythmics of Jacques Dalcroze. Introduction by Professor M. E. Sadler. (Constable & Co. 2s. net.)

Rebels and Reformers. Biographies for Young People. By Arthur and Dorothea Ponsonby. (George Allen & Unwin Ltd. 6s. net.)

"Every period of widespread war in the modern history of Europe has been preceded by excitement about questions of education. . . . Ardent aspirations, unsettlement of mind, discontent with existing conditions, and a conflict between different ideals of social organisation, seem to show themselves in eager search for educational reform before events culminate in the catastrophe of war." Professor Sadler, in his introduction to "The Eurythmics of Jacques Dalcroze," supports this theory by pointing to the wars of the seventeenth century, before which Ratich, Comenius and Hartlib thought and wrote, and those of the eighteenth century, during which Rousseau, Basellow and Pestalozzi revolutionised educational theory and practice. Instances could be multiplied, and the European War which is now raging is certainly no exception.

Interest in children, which in the earlier part of the nineteenth century seemed confined to poets and a few educationalists, in the twentieth century runs a serious risk of becoming fashionable, so great is the boom in "child-study." Books galore, periodicals, experiments, are the results, while young mothers become as boring about the antics of their "Montessori children" as they were before about the teething of children who were not Montessori. Meanwhile, if grown-ups sometimes sigh for the return of the good old seen-and-not-heard days, children at least have the time of their lives. Some of the experiments, moreover, are of quite surpassing interest. No one can visit, or even read about, such undertakings as the Little Commonwealth, or the Caldecott Community, or Miss Margaret McMillan's Camps, without a thrill of excitement—no one, that is, who has the slightest interest in children. And to this category belongs Mr. Cook's experiments carried out at the Perse School, Cambridge. The satisfactory thing about Mr. Cook's description of the Play Way is that it *is* a description. He puts all his theories about the method into the first three chapters and the last, the other six being an account of how he started the thing, and how the boys went on. But the really interesting point in Mr. Cook's book is his frank acceptance of the "Gilded pill" means of persuading children to learn. The ordinary man or woman discussing modern educational theories will say: "It's all very nice for the children, but how do you apply a theory of this kind to Latin and Greek and subjects which you really have to grind at?"

Mr. Cook's argument is: "Once the boys' interest is aroused they will cheerfully overcome that modicum of drudgery which is an indispensable part of all undertakings."

How "interest is aroused" at the Perse School is fully dealt with in "The Play Way," and it is well worth reading.

Starting with the aim of teaching music in an intelligent manner, Monsieur Jacques Dalcroze seems to have arrived at conclusions not at all unlike Mr. Cook's. He has founded a new school of music-teaching and of rhythmical dancing, but this is by no means all. During the Baby-Week Exhibition last July, children from a London Elementary School performed Eurythmic dances at the Central Hall, and to see them, their lack of self-consciousness, their keen interest, and above all their joyful freedom of movement, was to agree with Professor Sadler that in this art there lies promise of "a new and more harmonious race, almost a realisation of Rousseau's ideal, and with it an era of truly rhythmic artistic production."

Teachers, with notable exceptions, like those we have been considering, are proverbially conservative, for the imposing of authority from above, which is the old-fashioned method of discipline, walks naturally with conservative principles. How many children of naturally liberal tendencies have suffered from this in the past! By hook or by crook, in the teaching of history the conservative side seemed always to be made to come out on top—it was most irritating. To children who have a natural taste for the rebellious, and to those without it, should be given Mr. and Mrs. Ponsonby's book. That it will be widely used in schools and out of them we have little doubt, for all modern theories of education are, after all, founded on the same idea of freedom, self-development, self-government.

"If you defy authority from stupidity, obstinacy, or

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perversity, it is merely foolish; but if you defy authority because you are convinced that what you think is right, it is a very difficult thing to do; and doing it you are likely to make far more enemies than friends. It is much easier to accept things as they are, to think of your own enjoyment first and foremost, and let others do the wrangling while you look on. But the mere spectators in life are no help to anyone, not even to themselves. Life is conflict."

It is distinctly a book for the modern child, but may be read with profit by grown-ups as well.

M. G. C. J.

WOMEN AND THE ARMY.

At the Convocation of Canterbury held at the Church House, Westminster, on Tuesday, the Archbishop of Canterbury stated that he had made the fullest possible enquiry into the alleged immoral results arising from the employment of women in the Auxiliary Army Service. The assertions made in some quarters with regard to members of the W.A.A.C. were gross libels. After going to the very bottom of the subject, he was convinced that, although there might have been some evil results and some wrong-doing, the percentage of such cases had been of the very smallest possible dimensions, amounting to next to nothing at all. The arrangements made by the War Office and other organisations working for the good of women at the Front, were of the most ample description. It was discreditable that such statements should have been made.

Correspondence.

[Letters for publication should be received not later than Monday.]

THE CASE OF JULIA DECIES.

MADAM,—May I appeal to the sympathy of your readers on behalf of a typical case of prison discipline prolonging punishment beyond its purpose, and separating mother and child to the injury of both?

Four years ago a young woman, Julia Decies, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for a murderous assault—as it was termed—upon a man with whom she had been living as his wife, and who was about to leave her for another woman. She had bought a revolver for her own destruction but in a moment of a passionate quarrel had pointed the revolver at him, fired, and wounded him, but not seriously. She was pregnant at the time, by him, and four months after her sentence a boy was born to her, in prison. For three years, according to rule, the mother, in prison, was at intervals of three months allowed a visit from her child. At the end of three years the prison rules automatically stopped the visits. Outside the prison, the child was in the charge of a sister of the prisoner.

Last summer I, by chance, came into touch with this sister, and found her very anxious that the mother should be released from prison and come and live with her, that they might help one another and together look after the boy—a bright, intelligent little fellow—to whom both mother and sister were, and are, devoted. I went into the case and, with the assistance of the counsel who defended Julia at the trial, a petition, addressed to the Home Secretary, was drawn up, setting out all necessary particulars, and asking for a remission of the unexpired portion of the sentence, that the mother might be united to the child. The petition was brought to the notice of a number of distinguished people interested in women's welfare, and, in October last, the petition signed by them and myself was presented to the Home Secretary by Sir William Bull, who had been interested in the case at the time of the trial. The result, after a delay of two months and a-half, has been the removal of Julia Decies from Aylesbury Prison to a "Home"—where she is still a prisoner—just one fortnight earlier than she would have been removed had no petition been presented, there to be detained till the expiration of her sentence next November.

Her good conduct in prison had already reduced her term of imprisonment to four and a-half years, so that in November she will be free. But why not now, at once? Why not take into account the judgment of the petitioners on the case, the merits of the case itself, the devotion of the mother and the sister to one another and to the child, the saving influence of this devotion, and the assistance promised by myself?

The prisoner is still a prisoner, subject to prison discipline. My own offer of assistance has been refused. I am not even allowed to visit her at the "Home," nor is her sister oftener than once in two months, and correspondence is limited to once in six weeks.

I appeal to your readers to bring such influence as they may have to bear in support of a better and more merciful adjustment of the Home Secretary's power of control to the modifications which the prisoners and their circumstances may undergo after sentence, and to ask the Home Secretary, and in Parliament if need be, for the immediate release of this prisoner and mother, Julia Decies. One other thing I would ask. The child's birth certificate is marked "born in prison." Cannot this be deleted? Was it the child's fault that he was born "in prison"? Need such a misfortune be the child's own, through life?

ANNE COBDEN SANDERSON.

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Equal Justice?

On January 21st, a soldier, Henry Canham, who had shot and killed his wife, pleaded guilty to the charge of manslaughter, and was bound over in his own recognisances by Mr. Justice Atkin, and discharged. Four years ago a woman, Julia Decies, who had shot and slightly wounded a man with whom she had been living, was convicted of murderous assault and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. We understand that she has not yet been released.

No one who thinks of these two cases can fail to be struck with the contrast in the punishment. In both the provocation to the murderous assault was great; Julia Decies and Henry Canham each appear to have suffered some of the bitterest wrongs that can be inflicted by human beings on each other. Each seems to have resorted to violence in a moment of ungovernable passion, when sanity was for the moment in abeyance. Julia Decies found that the man to whom she had given everything was about to desert her and her unborn child. In a fit of despair she bought a revolver, with which she intended to destroy herself; then, in the course of a passionate dispute, she pointed it at her betrayer and fired. The consequences to him were not serious. She has been in prison ever since; her child was born there, and an attempt to obtain her early release, in order that she might help her sister to bring it up, has not so far succeeded. (The details will be found in a letter from Mrs. Cobden Sanderson on page 557.) Henry Canham, when he returned from military service in France, found that his wife had not only been unfaithful to him, but that she had cruelly neglected their child. He consented to forgive her, and persuaded her to come back and live with him. She then confessed that she had contracted disease, and he in a fit of passion and fear took his service revolver and shot her dead; he has now been discharged.

His case is not an isolated one. Last October Ernest Gorton gave himself up to the police for the murder of his wife. He said that she had been unfaithful to him while he was at the Front, and that he had accordingly killed her. He was, however, tried not for murder, but for manslaughter, and on being found guilty, was sentenced to five years' penal servitude. There have been other cases of wife-murder during the past year, and some of them have been followed not only by light sentences, but by surprising remarks on the part of the presiding magistrate. In some of them the provocation has undoubtedly been great; as we have shown, it was so in Canham's case. But our law does not sanction private vengeance for private wrongs. If it did so, and if men and women profited by the license, there would be innumerable murders, and among the victims would be many husbands. We do not believe that many magistrates would seriously hold that outraged feelings, or even wrecked lives, justify killing. Stone's "Justices' Manual" states that "no provocation can excuse manslaughter." But when the manslaughter is inflicted by a husband on an unfaithful wife, the administration of justice is, we believe, coloured by the old false beliefs that the wife is the possession of the husband, and that her unfaithfulness not only wrongs, but dishonours him. Our law is too often interpreted as if there were a different standard of right and wrong for the woman and for the man.

The whole matter gives cause for serious thought. The unnatural conditions which result from a prolonged war place numbers of men and women in circumstances of peculiar temptation. It is possible, even probable, that crimes of violence may increase. It is necessary that the public temper that deals with them should be calm, just, and merciful, and that sentimentality and the desire for vengeance should alike be banished. Many grave questions about our criminal law, and about the efficacy of deterrent punishment, will arise. We cannot treat these questions here; but there is one question

which is ours, one demand we must make, and that is that the law should be equally administered as between men and women, and that its administration should not be tainted by the tacit admission of a double moral standard, and the tacit belief that the wife is the chattel of her husband. The very grave evidence brought forward by the Association for Social and Moral Hygiene, and referred to in our note on page 553, would seem to show that in some places temptations to disregard the marriage tie are deliberately placed in the way of our soldiers, but at the same time some of our judges speak and act as if unfaithfulness on the part of soldiers' wives were worthy of death. Our demand is that the women should be protected from violence, even if they are wives, and that men should be protected from deliberately organised temptation, even if they are soldiers. We do not ask for vengeance, or demand increased punishment, but we do ask for justice, and if, as we hope, justice is to be more tempered with mercy than it has been in times past, we ask that that mercy should be extended to women as well as to men, and should be applied without lack of time to such cases as that of Julia Decies.

POOR LAW REFORM.

(A Reply from the Countess of Selborne.)

MADAM,—The point on which I differ from the report of the Commission is that I wish to keep the directly elected council to deal with local relief, and they wish to confide it to an appointed sub-committee of the Health Committee of the County Council. If the County Council could deal directly with the matter itself I should be quite satisfied, but it is obvious it cannot.

Especially in the case of women, it is far better for them to feel that they represent the ratepayers, than to feel they are selected by a small committee of the County Council. I have served on several of these selected committees, as well as on a Board of Guardians, so I speak from experience.

I have no affection for the general, mixed workhouse, and if Mrs. Sidney Webb had read my article she would have seen that I proposed to get rid of it by continuing the policy which has been pursued up to the present date, and eliminating various classes for which it is now used.

I wish to remove the tramps, and put the unemployed under the care of the Labour Ministry. Already lunatics have been removed. Mentally deficients will in future be under the care of the County Council, which will have to provide proper institutions for those who need them. Children remain under the care of the Guardians if they have no one to maintain them, but they are removed from the workhouse.

In the country the workhouses would be the refuge of the poor infirm and aged, and the district sick house, and I should like to leave the care of these institutions, as well as the distribution of public assistance, which seems to be the new name for out-door relief, to the locally elected, locally acquainted body. I am only at present speaking for rural districts, as those are what I really do know about.

There are much fewer difficulties of distance in a town, and quite possibly the recommendations of the Committee may be the right thing there. I don't know anything about the working of Urban Boards of Guardians or City Councils.

It is not at all necessary that we should have the same arrangements.

I hope, at any rate, that nothing will be done in the short time that remains to this Parliament, so that the new voters may have an opportunity of expressing their views on the subject.

MAUD SELBORNE.

THE THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

Over £300 is still wanted to complete the fund for our third COMMON CAUSE Hut, which is being eagerly awaited by members of the W.A.A.C. on Salisbury Plain. We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	353	5	1
Mrs. Chas. Thompson ...	1	1	0
Dr. E. E. Goodrich ...		10	0
The Misses Wilks ...	2	0	0
Miss M. Williamson ...		10	0
Miss E. Woods ...		10	0
Mrs. Jessie Grahame ...	2	2	0
Miss A. Gardner ...		5	0
Miss Kirby ...		10	0
Mrs. G. M. Thomson ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Hastings ...		10	0
Miss I. L. Young ...	2	0	0
Mrs. Ballantyne ...		2	6
Dr. and Mrs. Langley Browne	1	0	0
A. Bye, Esq. ...		10	6
Mrs. Eyres ...	3	0	0
Clerical Staff of No. 2 Area Office of the Ministry of Munitions, per the Misses Lopez and Shaw, Joint Secs. of Social Com. ...	2	2	0
	£370	19	1

Further donations will be welcomed by the Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

The Potato Harvest in Marshland.

In a far corner of Yorkshire, where the River Trent meets the Ouse, there lies a tract of land which is of interest to both the historian and the agriculturist. It is bounded on the west side by the River Don, and was formerly marshland, and practically under water the greater part of the year.

In the reign of Charles I. the great Dutch engineer, Sir Cornelius Vermuyden, obtained a concession from the King to drain this area, and to retain one-third of the land thus reclaimed. He was well known to King Charles for his success in draining Windsor Park. He brought with him workmen from Holland, Flanders, France, and Belgium. These men were skilled in digging drains and building dykes. They met with considerable opposition from the native population, who were jealous of imported labour and angry at the loss of their right of grazing on the waste land. Frequent collisions took place, and some of the foreigners were killed and wounded. During the course of this undertaking Vermuyden engineered an artificial cut to carry off overflow waters from the Don. This is known as the "Dutch River."

The details of this enterprise and struggle were recorded by Abraham de la Prime, Curate of Thorne, whose father had fled from Ypres during the Spanish invasion of the Netherlands, and had taken refuge in England, as so many Belgians have done to-day. When Vermuyden had completed his task, he returned to his native land, leaving behind some of the workmen to keep the drains and dykes in order. The Dutchmen, with their wives and families, formed a complete colony, and their descendants are to be found in the district at the present time.

The land thus reclaimed became in due course very fruitful, and is to-day one of the finest potato-growing districts in the country. By the end of September there are many thousands of acres of potatoes in this locality ready to be lifted. This is chiefly done by women and children, who work in "gangs" of from eight to thirty, according to the size of the fields. Diggers or ploughs are used to uncover the potatoes, and the women follow the ploughs, lifting the potatoes from the ground into baskets which are emptied into carts. This is sometimes called "scratting," as the potatoes get partly buried in the loose soil, and the women "scratt" them out with their hands. Those farmers who live near villages or towns can usually get sufficient labour for their needs. In remoter parts of the district the problem is much more acute. Formerly, Irishmen came over in considerable numbers to help in harvesting, and they could be accommodated in sheds and outbuildings. Now, no Irishmen are available, and the supply of women from the neighbourhood is so much reduced, owing to the numbers employed on munitions and other war work, that only the farms situated close to the towns can get as many helpers as they require. In these days, when the potato has come to be recognised as such a valuable item in our food supply, the question of procuring labour to deal with the enormous crops grown in the Goole district has become one of almost national importance. As sufficient local labour was not available last year, it was necessary to import it; but how to house and feed a large number of women in a remote district, with scattered farms, and no empty cottages, was indeed a serious problem. Many were the conclaves held by local farmers on market days, before a possible solution dawned in the brain of one of the party.

His suggestion was to borrow a large empty house belonging to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and use it as a hostel.

Ousefleet House is situated in the centre of Marshland, as it is called locally. A queer, flat country this, with very large fields, separated from one another by deep ditches. The only landmarks are windmills and church spires. Names of villages such as "Ousefleet," "Swinefleet," and "Adlingfleet" suggest low-lying land and wide waterways. The word "fleet" is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "fleotan," to flow.

The house is only about forty years old; but having stood for a long time empty and desolate, has become imbued with a venerable appearance. If stones could speak, strange shocked tones would have issued from its walls at being invaded by some 140 women of all sorts and conditions—voluntary land-workers, casual labourers from the large towns, and others. Latin inscriptions over the fireplaces contrasted strangely with the names given to the rooms by their new occupants—"The Rosary," "Ash Lea," "Cosy Camp," "The Wig-Wam," "The Colonel's Dug-out," "The Rookery," and last, but not least, "The Basket," so-called because it was the "Casual Ward," wherein were all manner of "odd fish" and "queer

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fowls," with creeping things innumerable. There was no furniture in the house, so trestle-tables and benches were borrowed for the dining-room. Beds were of straw, laid on the floor, and "made" according to the individual taste of the occupants; quite a comfortable form of bed, and much to be recommended from the point of view of cleanliness, as they can easily be renewed. A good water system held out hopes of a plentiful hot-water supply, but alas! "the best-laid plans of mice and men oft gang agley," and the first morning disclosed broken pipes and flooded floors, so the pump became the trusted friend of those who would wash!

Many of the women were roughing it for the first time in their lives, and some who were not prepared for camp conditions, were surprised and disappointed at the absence of the ordinary comforts of life; but most of them behaved splendidly, taking the rough with the smooth as part of their war-work, realising the difficulties of providing them with even common necessities, and determining to make the best of it. They displayed considerable ingenuity in making straw beds, stowing away clothes, &c. They also learnt to live in a community, and to obey such rules as are necessary for the orderly conduct of such a commonwealth.

All parts of the kingdom contributed workers. Scottish and Irish voices mingled with Cockney tones. Yorkshire and Shropshire were as foreign tongues to one another! Every evening the old house rang with cheerful voices, laughter, song, and dance. Piano and gramophone competed for popularity.

The farmers paid a weekly wage of 18s., instead of the daily wage usually paid to casual labourers. This ensured a livelihood on days when it was too wet for work. They also paid return railway fares, and gave an unlimited supply of straw and potatoes. The women paid 12s. a week for board and lodging. The hours of work were from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the farmers provided drays to fetch the women to and from their work.

In rather over six weeks, from 400 to 500 acres of potatoes were lifted by the Ousefleet Hall gangs. One field yielded 11 tons to the acre. An average 8 tons to the acre is usually considered a good crop. Casual labour has never been imported on a large scale into this district since the days of Vermuyden, so the experiment is of special interest. The twentieth-century invasion of Marshland was not resented by the native population. The farmers welcomed it, and acknowledged that without the help of the women they could not have harvested the potato crop. Although the potato pickers did not remain in Marshland in sufficient numbers to form such a colony as the Dutch, still they left some girls behind as permanent farm-workers.

The promoters of this experiment learnt many things which should bear fruit if the potato pickers visit Marshland another year, and which may help permanently to improve the conditions of all casual labourers. M. S.

Reviews.

The February number of THE ENGLISHWOMAN will be read with special interest by Suffragists because of the striking leading article in which Miss Lowndes describes the Suffrage debate and victory in the House of Lords, and the feelings of the women who watched and listened to the latest though not the final battle in the historic struggle for the franchise.

This number also contains an article by Mr. Robert Augustin on Reconstruction from the point of view of women engaged in industry, and an article by Mrs. Boyd Dawson, urging new ideals for factory legislation. Mr. Augustin suggests that a census of women employed in various groups of occupations shall be taken in order to find out how many are likely to remain in industry after the war; what their occupations and wages were before the war, and whether they wish to go back to their former occupations, remain at their present work, or find fresh openings. He points out that the chief unknown factor in the problem of after-war employment is that of the extra women (estimated at over a million) who have come into industry.

Mrs. Boyd Dawson pleads for more enlightened Factory Acts framed to give adequate protection to the health of the workers (men as well as women and children), and administered by the Ministry of Health instead of by the Home Office. The Acts, she maintains, must take in many classes of workers, such as newsboys and workers in offices and restaurants, who at present are not included in their provisions, and must aim at levelling up the practice of all employers to that of the more enlightened and progressive who have already discovered that long hours do not mean a permanently increased output.

The second number of THE LANDSWOMAN contains an interesting illustrated article on Timber Work and the Land Army, and an article by Jane Strong comparing conditions in villages with and without a Women's Institute. The writer holds that the Women's Institute has found the true solution to the problem of making village life liveable by helping people to find out their own needs and then apply their own remedies.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS VIOLET EUSTACE.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).
MISS EVELYN ATKINSON (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
MRS. AUERBACH.
Secretary (pro. tem.):
MISS GLADYS DAVIDSON.

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W.1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, West Cent., London.

Postponement of Annual Council and Demonstration.

In view of the possible delay in the passage of the Bill and consequent difficulty in suiting the convenience of speakers, and as it is considered that the recent air raids in London may cause anxiety as regards possible similar occurrences during moonlight nights this month, the Honorary Officers, acting in consultation with the Executive Committee, have decided to postpone the meetings of the Annual Council from February 20th, 21st, and 22nd until March 12th, 13th, and 14th, when there will be a new moon and consequent dark nights. As a really good attendance at these meetings is earnestly desired, it is felt that this alteration in the dates is essential.

The Annual Council Meetings, therefore, will now be held at the Chelsea Town Hall on March 12th, 13th, and 14th, and the demonstration at the Queen's Hall will, as a consequence, take place on the evening of Wednesday, March 13th. Will readers kindly note this alteration?

Thanksgiving Services.

The N.U.W.S.S. have decided to accept an invitation received from the Church League for Women's Suffrage to join in their Consecration and Thanksgiving Service to be held at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields on the Saturday after the Electoral Reform Bill receives the Royal assent. The Bishop of Lincoln hopes to give the address on this occasion, and the Vicar of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields will conduct the service, which will be of a special form. The principal banner of the N.U.W.S.S. is to be lent for the procession of Suffrage banners up the aisle.

It has also been decided to accept the invitation of the Free Church League for Women's Suffrage to take part in their services at the City Temple, which will be held on the Sunday following the Royal assent:—

(*a*) Consecration Service.—City Temple, 4.30 p.m.

(*b*) Thanksgiving Service.—6 o'clock (this to be conducted by Miss Maude Royden).

MRS. FAWCETT AT THE L.S.W.S. OFFICE.

The Staff of the London Society for Women's Suffrage had the honour and pleasure of entertaining Mrs. Fawcett to tea at 58, Victoria-street, S.W., on Monday, February 4th. Among those present were the Lady Frances Balfour, President of the London Society; Doctor Benson, Chief Medical Officer of the Elsie Inglis Hospital Unit; the London Executive Committee; the present Staff of the Society, of Women's Service, and of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals; many former members of the Staff, and many representatives of the devoted band of voluntary workers who have toiled for the Suffrage cause in the Society's office, and at meetings and elections for such a long series of struggling years.

After tea, Miss Cameron, as the oldest member of the Staff presented to Mrs. Fawcett a bouquet of red and white carnations, tied with the N.U.W.S.S. colours, welcomed her, and expressed to her the gratitude and devotion of the Society.

In thanking her and the rest of the Staff, Mrs. Fawcett said that the victory was not hers, but had been won by all the thousands of devoted women who had worked and striven for the Suffrage through so many years. She herself had known that their labours could not fail. She had not only believed but *known* that success was certain. It was now that victory had come that she found it hard to believe. She had been asked what Psalm would best express the feelings of suffragists in these days, and her answer was, Psalm 126, "When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion: then were we like unto them that dream." This joy had come to us in a time of great trouble and sorrow. Just as the calamity of the Black Death in the Middle Ages had led to the end of Serfdom, so the great calamity of the present war had led to the enfranchisement of women. But all our object was not yet achieved, we must go on toiling for equal opportunities for the industrial women who had been placed in a position that was almost serfdom. Till these were free we should not feel that our own freedom was won.

The two youngest members of the Staff, messengers in their early teens, were then presented to Mrs. Fawcett. On the motion of Miss Deverell three cheers were given for Mrs. Fawcett and three for Miss Strachey. It was altogether a very happy gathering, and one which many of those present will never forget.

"The Common Cause" Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Gossage	13	6	
Mr. Theedam	1	0	
	14	6	

A "MRS. FAWCETT" BED.

MADAM,—Many of your readers will already have heard of the Memorial in honour of Dr. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, which is being got up by the New Hospital for Women. Several beds have already been fully endowed up to the sum of £1,000 in honour of eminent women. We want, in time, to get beds in honour of many others. I think no one's name is more dear to women than Mrs. Fawcett's, and it wou'd be especially suitable to have a bed in her honour in the hospital founded by her sister. If members of the N.U.W.S.S. will help me, I should like to start a fund for one, and I hope that you will allow me to appeal through your columns, and to ask anyone who sympathises with the project to send me a contribution.

SOPHIE HALL (Hon. Treasurer).

Memorial

TO

Dr. ELIZABETH GARRETT ANDERSON

FROM

THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND

For the Endowment of Beds in the

NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN,

EUSTON ROAD,

FOUNDED BY HER IN 1866.

The sum of £1,000 endows a bed to be named after the Donor.

The undermentioned Colleges and Schools are collecting among themselves for presentation to the Hospital when complete:—

	£	s.	d.
Girton and Newnham Colleges, for Cambridge Bed	1,000	0	0
Somerville, Lady Margaret Hall, St. Hugh's College, St. Hilda's Hall, and Oxford House Students, for Oxford Bed	1,000	0	0
Bedford College	1,000	0	0
Queen's College	1,000	0	0
Roedean School	1,000	0	0
Highfield, Watford	1,000	0	0
St. Katherine's, Hook Heath	1,000	0	0
	£7,000	0	0

BEDS have been endowed by:—

	£	s.	d.
Sir Alan Anderson	1,000	0	0
Dr. L. Garrett Anderson	1,000	0	0
Lady Bellby, the Julia Cock Bed	1,000	0	0
G. Courtauld, Esq., the Gosfield Bed	1,000	0	0

DONATIONS have already been received towards the Endowment of the followin :—

	£	s.	d.
Subscribers' Bed	850	17	0
Medical Women's Bed	599	11	1
St. Katherine's, Hook Heath, Bed	450	0	0
Elizabeth Blackwell Bed	433	2	0
Musicians' Bed	278	7	3
Roedean Bed	231	0	0
Douglas-Lombardini Bed	228	7	9
Civil Servants' Bed	214	9	5
Stage Bed (by Miss Irene Vanbrugh)	154	7	6
Mary Scharlieb Bed	103	8	0
Artists' Bed (by Mrs. Ralph Peto)	100	0	0
Domestic Servants' Bed	76	10	11
Women Landworkers' Bed	33	15	0
Women Writers' Bed	29	10	0
Women Clerks and Secretaries' Bed	25	18	0
Nurses' Bed	12	5	0
Frances Mary Buss Bed	10	0	0
1918 Bed, to Celebrate the Enfranchisement of Women	5	0	0
	£7,786	8	11
Other Donations, amounting to	1,220	3	0
Total	£9,006	11	11

The London County Secondary Schools will maintain a bed by annual subscription.

CONTRIBUTIONS towards the MEMORIAL in form of donations towards any of the above beds or towards endowment of others will be gratefully received, and should be sent to

LADY HALL,

Hon. Treasurer of the Fund (to whom cheques should be made payable)

NEW HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN,

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N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

HEADQUARTERS: 2, ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
Founded by the Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S.

The latest work undertaken by the Scottish Women's Hospitals is a Hospital in France for Serbs suffering from tuberculosis. The refugee colony in Corsica, and the work in the hospital, lazaret, and outpost stations there, are still being carried on, but M. Radovanovic, Commissioner-General for the Serbian Refugees in France, wrote last summer entreating the Committee of the Scottish Women's Hospitals to open a hospital in France where Serbs suffering from tuberculosis could be treated without being exposed to the danger and difficulty of a sea voyage to Corsica. The needs, he pointed out, were very great, and could not be met by existing hospitals, as these were for the most part military, and the few that took in civilians were already full.

There was much difficulty in finding a suitable place for the hospital, but at last an hotel in the village of Sallanches, in Haute Savoie, has been secured. It is a new building, requiring very little alteration to adapt it for a hospital, situated amid beautiful scenery in a broad valley at the foot of Mont Blanc, at a medium height above sea level, and within motoring distance of Aix-les-Bains. The number of beds, to begin with, will not exceed 100, but it is hoped to add to these later.

EQUIPMENT.

Almost the most urgent need at the moment is for clothing for the patients everywhere. Woollen or flannelette pyjamas, day shirts, woollen vests and pants are needed, and socks and bedsocks are required everywhere. The patients who will fill the 200 extra beds in the Newnham and Girton Unit at Salonica must be clothed. Hundreds of garments are still needed for the America Unit in Macedonia, and a stock must be prepared for the new hospital at Sallanches.

DONATIONS.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, for much new work is being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to January 17th, 1918	284,864	17	0
Further donations received to January 24th, 1918:—			
*James G. Thorburn, Esq. ...	5	0	0
*Bristol W.S.S., per Mrs. Hicks, Hon. Treas. (November and December dons.): G. Bryar, Esq. (4s.), Miss M. Leonard (3s.), Mrs. Talbot (2s.), Miss Powell (1s.), Mrs. Cross (2s.), Mrs. H. Hicks (2s.), Mrs. Taylor (2s.), Totterdown Branch, per Mrs. J. Martin (5s.)	1	1	0
Fred Nightingale, Esq., per Mrs. Blincol, Org. Sec. Bolton W.S.S.	5	0	0
*Per Miss Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H., for "Buckingham Terrace" bed, Salonica: Miss Woodrow Thomson and the Misses Simmie (£5), Miss Cairns (£5), Miss Watson (£3 3s.), *Mrs. T. M. Murray (£1), George Hart, Esq. (10s.)	14	13	0
*Per Peter Carphin, Esq., additional to proceeds of Play held at 40, Drumsheugh Gardens		3	0
Mr. and Mrs. Rae Macdonald, per Mrs. Baldwin Brown (Serbia)	1	1	0
*Mrs. H. C. H. Smith (Serbia)	1	0	0
Miss A. Pennington (Serbia) ...	1	19	0
Collection taken in Presbyterian Church of England, per Rev. Jas. Ramsay	1	3	3
*Mrs. Harmer (£1), Mrs. Lacy (£1) (Serbia)	2	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees and Staff, Saxone Shoe Co. Ltd.	6	16	8
*Per Miss Isabel Basnett, Organiser S.W.H.: Result of Lectures in Pickering and Malton (£20 4s. 8d. and £6 11s. 3d.)	26	15	11
Sale of Chinese Stamps, per Mrs. Laurie: Mrs. Hope ...		5	0
Per Miss J. G. McCrea, M.A., Headmistress Stafford Girls' High School: Half proceeds of Entertainment got up by six of the Girls in the Christmas holidays	2	12	6
Collection at Presbyterian Service, General Headquarters, France, per Rev. Dr. S. Duncan, C.F., per Miss Geraldine Cooke...	4	4	0
Miss Thomson, proceeds of Whist Drive	10	0	0
Mrs. Boswell	1	1	0
*Per Miss E. R. Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H.: Amalgamated Soc. of Litho. Artist Designers, per G. Kerr, Esq. (5s.), Employees Messrs. James Bertram & Sons (£5), *Employees Messrs. Duncan & Flockhart (£5)...	10	5	0
D. P. Honeyman, Esq.	2	0	0
Miss J. Galloway (Serbia) ...		6	0
The Misses Thomson, "In Memory of Dr. Elsie Inglis"		15	0
Mrs. Brodie (£1), Mrs. Stenhouse (£5) (towards "Belgrave" bed, Salonica)	6	0	0
Earned by the Candidates' Corps of the Girls' Friendly Soc. in Earlston, per Miss F. Welch	1	0	0
*Miss Clara V. Reid (Serbians)	20	0	0
Springbank United Free Church Sabbath School, per Arch. G. Boyd, Esq.		9	0
*Sunderland W.S.S., per Mrs. Mundella, Hon. Treas. (Dec. dons.): Collected at 4, Belford Road—Mrs. Common (10s.), Miss J. Common (10s.), Mrs. Eliot Common (10s.), Mrs. Walford Common (5s.), Mrs. Garcia (2s. 6d.), A Friend (1s.), Mrs. Lazenby (1s.), Household Economies at 4, Belford Road (6s.); Mrs. Mundella: Mrs. Eyres (5s.), Miss Hedley (2s. 6d.), Miss Farquhar (2s. 6d.), Mrs. A. Ritson (2s.), Mrs. Oliver (1s.), Nurse Hinch (1s.), Mrs. Mundella (2s.); Mrs. Dalrymple Smith (6s. 8d.), Miss A. M. Rhind (5s.), S. G. (4s.)	3	17	2
Lady Robertson, per Mrs. McKinnon, Hon. Sec. Dunfermline W.S.S.	2	2	0
*Dunbar W.S.S., per Miss Aspinwall, Hon. Treas.: Additional to Whist Drive, for "Dunbar" bed, Royaumont..	1	0	0
	£284,998	17	6

* Denotes further donations.

CHINESE STAMPS.

Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer S.W.H., has still several packets of Chinese stamps on hand, and will be very pleased to send out a packet to anyone interested in stamps. Price of packet, five shillings.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

WOKINGHAM SOCIETY.—A Members' Meeting was held at Montague House on Wednesday, January 9th, and was addressed by Mrs. Venning on "The Present Situation and Women's Opportunities." The chair was taken by the Hon. Secretary, Miss Cruttwell (in the Chairman's absence through illness). The members, at the close of the meeting, elected the Executive and Committee for the coming year. Miss M. Bassett, 3, Foxley Villas, has consented to be Hon. Secretary in place of Miss Cruttwell, who is leaving Wokingham and two new members were elected to the Committee—Mrs. Bell and Miss Spiers. The proceeds of the Jumble Sale, on Saturday, January 12th, amounted to about £4, to be divided between the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Reading Day Nursery.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

FEBRUARY 9.

Chapel-en-le-Frith—At the Victoria Café—Chair: Mrs. Bennett-Stoddart—Conference to consider the best means of organising a Society of Women Citizens—Speaker: Mrs. Annot Robinson. 7.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11.

Bury—At Corporation Hall—Conference of Women's Organisations to discuss arrangements for organising Society of Women Citizens.

Birmingham—Bearwood Co-operative Guild—Mrs. Hughes. 8 p.m.

Birmingham—Saltley Wesleyan Church—Mrs. Ring. 8 p.m.

FEBRUARY 15.

Camberley and District—At Pearson's Tea Rooms, High Street—Annual Meeting—Discussion on the Council Agenda and Future of the N.U.W.S.S. 3 p.m.

Clapham—Women's Liberal Association—Speaker: Mrs. Corbett Fisher—Subject: "Women's New Opportunities." 3 p.m.

Edinburgh—40, Shandwick Place—"At Home"—Speaker: Mr. J. M. Tait (Local Food Control Office)—Subject: "Food Economy." 4.30 p.m.

South Kensington—Annual Meeting, at 18, Sheffield-terrace, by kind invitation of Miss Frances Sterling—Speakers: Mrs. Oliver Strachey, on The Future Work of the N.U.W.S.S., and Miss Margaret Jones, on Women's Citizens' Associations

FEBRUARY 25.

Kennington—Wheatsheaf Mission Hall, South Lambeth Road, S.E.—Speaker: Mrs. Watson—Subject: "Women's New Opportunities." 3 p.m.

LONDON UNITS, S.W.H. (N.U.W.S.S.).

FEBRUARY 8th—Downe House, Downe—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 3 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11th—Mrs. Stilt "At Home," Wollatan, 7, Hardy Road, Blackheath—Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield—Chairman: Mrs. Hadrill. 2.45 p.m.

FEBRUARY 12th—Mrs. Percy Bigland "At Home," 29, Tite Street, Chelsea—Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield. 4.30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 21st—Women Munition Workers' Hostel, Eltham—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 8.45 p.m.

Items of Interest.

Alderman C. F. Spencer of Halifax, who has been appointed by Lord Rhondda as Director of National Kitchens, gave particulars at Grosvenor House on Monday of his scheme for setting up public kitchens in places outside London. A special scheme for the London area is being drawn up. His idea is that hot food should be delivered by means of travelling kitchens as well as provided in depôts from which people can fetch it themselves. Local authorities are asked to submit schemes to the department, and if they are approved grants will be made by the Treasury to help in carrying them out.

The Consumers' Council, on which Mrs. Cottrell, Mrs. Reeves and Dr. Marion Phillips sit to represent the women's point of view, held its first meeting on February 1st. The Council is to have access to the facts and figures on which the Ministry of Food bases its policy, and will be able to give advice on problems of rationing, transport, administration, and questions arising from the shortage of particular kinds of food.

The Council of the Society of Incorporated Accountants and Auditors have convened an extraordinary general meeting of their members to consider the admission of women to the society on the same terms as men.

A correspondent has pointed out to us the omission from our list of women who received the O.B.E. of the name Miss Burton Ballantyne formerly an organiser for the National Union.

ALL BRITISH.
VALKASA
THE TONIC NERVE FOOD.
An Invigorating Nutrient for BRAIN FAG, DEPRESSION, LASSITUDE.
1s. 4d., 4s., and 7s. of all Chemists.
James Woolley, Sons & Co., Ltd.
MANCHESTER.

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All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

VICTORY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
Under the auspices of the
Free Church League for Woman Suffrage
A THANKSGIVING SERVICE
will be held at the
CITY TEMPLE
Sunday, Feb. 10th, 6 p.m., following King's Assent to R. P. Bill
conducted by
MISS A. MAUDE ROYDEN.
Consecration Service 4.30 at City Temple Hall
(entrance Plum Tree Court).

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
Brompton Rooms, 105, Brompton Road, S.W.
LECTURES.
Theosophy and the Invisible Worlds.
Tuesdays at 8 p.m.
Feb. 12 "Vibrations, Music and Thought Forms" THOMAS SMITH
,, 19 "Magic and Miracle" Miss BOTHWELL-GOSSE
Theosophy and the Gospel Story.
Fridays at 3.30 p.m.
Feb. 8 "Initiation" Miss B. M. WELLS
,, 15 "The Mystic Christ" The Rev. A. H. LEE
,, 22 "Psychic Research, the Ally of Christianity" ELLIS F. POWELL, B.Sc., LL.D.
ADMISSION FREE.

EDUCATIONAL.

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON)
REGENT'S PARK, N.W. 1.
Principal: Miss M. J. TUKE, M.A.
FOR RESIDENT and DAY STUDENTS.
DEGREE COURSES IN ARTS AND SCIENCE
SECONDARY TRAINING DEPARTMENT.
SCIENTIFIC INSTRUCTION IN HYGIENE.
TRAINING IN SOCIAL WORK.
For particulars of Scholarships and Bursaries, and for the College Calendar, apply to THE PRINCIPAL.

LINDUM HOUSE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.—Home School on Progressive Thought lines. Large garden, cricket field, sea bathing; all exams. Special care given to backward and delicate girls.—Principal: Miss Richardson, B.A.

THE SOUTH LONDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN
South Side, Clapham Common, S.W. 4.
A General Hospital for Women and Children officered by Medical Women.
PROBATIONERS are received at the age of 19 years or in exceptional circumstances at the age of 18. Two years' course. Certificate given. Salary, £10, £15, plus £5 War Bonus; also In-door Uniform. Short periods of training can be arranged for intending Health Visitors.
(*For full particulars, apply to the Matron.*)

POSITIONS VACANT.

APPLICATIONS invited from ladies with organising and business ability for inspectorship in an insurance company; must be resident in either Birmingham or Manchester.—Write, giving details of previous work, to Box 7,064, COMMON CAUSE Office.

EXPERIENCED SHORTHAND-TYPIST required.—Apply The Secretary, The Women's Municipal Party, Evelyn House, 62, Oxford-st., W. 1.

JUNIOR CLERK required; age about 16.—Apply The Secretary, The Women's Municipal Party, 62, Oxford-st., W. 1.

WANTED, superior experienced House-help for family of two. Help for coal, &c., morning. Plain cooking; modern, convenient house, easily worked. Wages £30.—Apply by letter, Mrs. Thorne, Highlands, Belmont, Sutton, Surrey.

[*Continued on page 564*

For Dyspeptics
and in convalescence, whenever "special feeding" is required, there is a case for Benger's Food. It forms with milk a dainty and delicious food cream, which in preparation, becomes automatically made suitable for the weakliest digestion.
BENGER'S Food
contains the natural elements of self-digestion. Medical men know and approve its contents, and under their authority, it is used in civil, military, and naval hospitals, and in convalescent and nursing institutions.
From an F.R.C.S.
"I cannot give your Food a better testimony than to say that I am a dyspeptic myself. "I find it extremely useful and at the same time palatable."
Benger's Food is sold in tins by Chemists, etc., everywhere.
A most interesting booklet about this most interesting Food post free from:
BENGER'S FOOD LTD., MANCHESTER, England.
Branch Offices: NEW YORK 90, Beekman St. SYDNEY 117, Pitt St. Depôts throughout CANADA.

Continued from page 563.

POSITION WANTED.

LADY, some experience, wants light outdoor work; poultry, garden, residential, with war workers preferred. Might give help in house.—M. M., 25, Denmark-avenue, Wimbledon.

GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training. Vegetable, fruit, and flower culture. Healthy outdoor life. Individual consideration. Long or short courses; from 60 gns. per annum. Students can enter any date.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

BOOKS, Etc.

TESTED FLOUR SAVING RECIPES.
No. 1.—Bread and Maize Scones. No. 2.—Bread and Oaten Wafers. No. 3.—Cakes and Biscuits. Singly, 1½d.; set of three, 3d., post free.—From the Betterment Book Room, 40a, Rosslyn Hill, N.W. 3.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

GOLD, SILVER, AND BRASS can be cleaned in half the ordinary time by the Ayah Polishing Cloth. This cloth is used by jewellers in restoring lustre to the finest jewellery. No soiling of hands. 1s. 3d., post free, from The Pioneer Manufacturing Co., 23, Paternoster-sq., London, E.C.

WAKE UP WOMEN!
FOR full particulars of the latest labour-saving devices, and demonstration in own home, write to "Utility Expert," 154, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

TYPEWRITING AND PRINTING.

EXPERT TYPEWRITING.—Any quantity in given time; Translations—all languages; Secretarial Training School. Price lists, &c., on application.—Miss NEAL, Walter House, 422, Strand, W.C.

MARY McLACHLAN, Typist, 4, Chapel Walk Manchester.

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Enquiries solicited. R. CROMBLEHOLME, *General Manager*

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"MORE MONEY TO SPEND" (Income Tax Recovery and Adjustment).—Send postcard for this booklet to Mrs. Ayres Purdie, Women Taxpayers' Agency, Campden House, 3, Kingsway. 'Phone, Central 6049.

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WARWICK SCHOOL OF MOTORING
259, WARWICK ROAD, KENSINGTON.
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Officially appointed and recommended by the Royal Automobile Club.
Individual Tuition given to Each Pupil.
Call and inspect our mechanical class rooms, which are fully equipped for practical training. Driving and mechanism is thoroughly taught by a competent staff.

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BEST CORSET BODICE
for WOMEN WORKERS
NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, Etc.
Adequate support WITHOUT bones.
Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements.
Corset Netting - 9/6
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Post free.
Out size 3/0 extra.
Send Bust, Waist, Hips, and D to E.
Cash with order.
BEATRICE STEMPEL,
17, UPLANDS ROAD
HORNSEY, LONDON, N.

LACE cleaned, mended, transferred. Many testimonials.—Beatrice, "C.C." Office. (No postcards.)

PERFECT FITTING Corsets made to order from 15s. 6d. Also accurately copied to customers' own patterns.—Emilie, 17, Burlington-arcade, Piccadilly, W.

TAILOR-MADE COSTUMES.—Latest styles to measure; best workmanship and smart cut guaranteed. Moderate prices.—H. Nelissen, 62, Great Portland-st., W. (late 14, Great Titchfield-st.).

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ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY, 69, Upper Street,
MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
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Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man.
Nurse in Attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches.
Send Post Card for Pamphlet. N.B.—No show case at door.
CONSULTATION FREE. Telephone: North 3795.

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ELECTROLYSIS for removal of superfluous hair, moles, etc. Face Massage and Electrical Hair Treatment. Lessons given and Certificates granted. Address Miss Theakston, 54, Devonshire-street, W. 1.

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BUSH HILL PARK LAUNDRY, 19-20, Second-avenue, Enfield. Proprietor, Miss M. B. Lattimer. Best family work, under personal supervision of trained experts. Open-air drying. Specialities: flannels, silks, fine linen, laces, &c. Prompt attention to parcels sent by post.

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Established 1850.

"COMMON CAUSE" Fountain Pens, price 5s. 6d. each. Non-leakable, can be carried in any position. Solid 14-carat gold nib. Apply, sending P.O. for 5s. 8d. (2d. being for postage), to the Manager, "Common Cause," Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1

FALSE TEETH BOUGHT.—Cash or offer by return. Before selling, make sure of their value by writing for free booklet, which explains very clearly the value of any artificial teeth.—E. Lewis, 29, London-st., Southport, Lancs. (Kindly mention COMMON CAUSE.)

HUCKABACK TOWELLING, in bundles of remnants, sufficient to make six full-sized bedroom towels, only 8s. 6d.; postage 6d. Send post card for this month's Bargain List, free.—Hutton's, 159, Larne, Ireland.

Real HARRIS, LEWIS, and SHETLAND HOMESPUNS
Direct from the Makers. Special light weights for Ladies' wear—all shades. *Patterns and Prices on Application.*
S. A. NEWALL & SONS, Stornoway, Scotland.
State shade desired and whether for Gent's or Ladies' wear.

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8, Hampstead Rd. (nr. Maple's), W. & 127, Fenchurch St., E.C.
To give best prices for OLD GOLD and SILVER JEWELLERY, GOLD, SILVER, PLATINUM, DIAMONDS, PEARLS, EMERALDS, SILVER PLATE, ANTIQUES, &c., in any form, condition, or quantity. Licensed valuers and appraisers. Telephone, Museum 2036.
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WANTED.—Costumes, coats, furs, underwear, gentlemen's and children's clothing, house furnishings. Specially good prices given.—Hélène, 5, Hanover-rd., Scarborough.

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HALF of well furnished Flat; two bedrooms, two sitting-rooms; 3½ gns.; or one bed, one sitting, *en suite*, 2 gns. Geyser bath, telephone, attendance. Cooking can be arranged. One minute Baker-st. Station.—Dr. Justina Wilson, 16, York Place, W. 1.

MEMBER can thoroughly recommend, from personal experience, furnished rooms, Bushey, Herts; 5 minutes station; scrupulously clean; geyser; moderate.—Apply Box 7,458, COMMON CAUSE Office.

SMALL FLAT to let, furnished; 1 sitting-room, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, store loft; constant hot water; radiator, electric light, gas cooker; telephone accessible. 3 gns. per week.—Write Occupier, 3, The Studios, Edge-st., Church-st., Kensington.

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THREE ROOMS, free vegetables and milk, in return wanted lady Caretaker-Cook for lady farm students.—Apply Woodgate, Dane Hill, Sussex.

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LONDON Member N.U.W.S.S. desires to share flat, or partial board, with someone of similar tastes. Reciprocal arrangements might be made for week-ends or otherwise in Buckinghamshire cottage (excellent train service).—H. W., Box 7,488, THE COMMON CAUSE, 62, Oxford-st., W.

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LOVELY TUNBRIDGE WELLS, "England's Beauty Spot." **ROYAL MOUNT EPHRAIM HOTEL;** facing common, full south; excellent cuisine; winter gardens; elevation 500 ft. above sea level; telephone 75; telegrams "Comfort."—For Brochure apply resident proprietress, L. Meadmore.

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HOSTEL for Lady Workers, Students, and Visitors; terms moderate, by day or week; convenient for all parts.—Miss Sullivan, 59, Albany-st., Regent's Park (Portland-rd. Station).

PRIVATE HOTEL FOR LADIES. Very quiet and refined.—13, St. George's-sq., Westminster. Bedroom, breakfast, bath, and attendance, from 4s. 6d.—Write, or wire, Miss Davies.

PRIVATE HOSTEL for Lady War-Workers. Partial board, from 27s. 6d.—Miss Hunt-Grubbe, 9, Cecil-court, Hollywood-rd., S.W. 10.

THE NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

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Name _____
(Mrs., Miss, Esq., or other Title.)

Address _____

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